

1. State Food Safety Index

Topic: Reports and Indices

In News: State Food Safety Index awards were announced on World Food Safety day.

More on the Topic:

- Tamil Nadu topped the list among larger states followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Among smaller states, Goa was the winner, followed by Manipur and Sikkim, while Jammu and Kashmir emerged top among Union Territories, followed by Delhi and Chandigarh.
- State Food Safety Index award was started in 2018-19 with the aim of creating a competitive and positive change in India's food safety ecosystem.
- **The report has been prepared by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety.**



World Food Safety Day:

- In 2018, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed that every June 7 would be celebrated as World Food Safety Day.
- It is observed annually on 7 June to help **prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks.**
- This year's World Food Safety Day theme – **'Safe Food for a healthy tomorrow'**
- It highlights that the production and consumption of safe food has immediate and long-term benefits for people, the planet and the economy.

Indian Governments Food Safety Initiatives:

- **Eat Right India**, aligned to the National Health Policy 2017 with its focus on preventive and promotive healthcare and flagship programmes like Ayushman Bharat, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anemia Mukht Bharat and Swachh Bharat Mission.
- **The Eat Right Research Awards and Grants** to encourage and recognize high-quality research in the area of food safety and nutrition in India;
- **A logo for Vegan Foods** for easy identification and distinction from non-vegan foods for empowering consumers to make informed food choices.
- **PAN-India survey for identifying the presence of industrially produced trans fatty acid content** in the selected foods.

Source: Indian Express

2. Nuclear Suppliers Group

Topic: International Affairs

In News: The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has announced that India is expected to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) while taming the political impediments that go against global interests.

More on the Topic:

- The 48-member NSG is an elite club of countries that deals with **the trade-in nuclear technology and fissile materials** besides contributing to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- NSG was formed with **the objective of averting the proliferation of nuclear weapons and preventing acts of nuclear terrorism.**
- It was formed in 1974 as a response to the **Indian nuclear test (smiling Buddha).**
- NSG consists of 48 members which include **the five nuclear weapon states US, UK, France, China, and Russia.**
- It is **not a formal organization**, and its guidelines are not binding.

Who is opposing India's Entry:

- **China has been stridently opposing India's NSG bid** primarily on the grounds that New Delhi is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- Its opposition has made India's entry into the group difficult as the NSG works on the principle of consensus.
- Other than China, countries that are opposing India's inclusion in the NSG are **Turkey, South Africa, Ireland and New Zealand.**
- While considering India's membership application, the NSG will also have to consider the fact that accepting this application can pose problems on **the processing of applications from Pakistan and Israel**, both of whom have not signed the NPT.

Why India Want to Join NSG:

- If India becomes a member, it would have better international markets for both the export and import of nuclear-related material.
- It would also facilitate access to better nuclear equipment.
- Joining the NSG will give India **better access to low-cost, clean nuclear energy -- important for its economic growth.**
- NSG membership would put India on a firmer footing to propose the **idea of plutonium trade for its thorium programme** that has been waiting in the wings.
- An early adoption of thorium technology would give India enormous energy independence and security.

MISSION ELITE CLUBS

WHAT IS NSG?

- 48-nation grouping that controls nuclear related-exports
- Set up in '74 to counter India's nuclear tests
- India has sought NSG membership since 2008



What is MTCR?

- 34 nation grouping that controls export of missile technology, including drones
- Set up in 1987 by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K & U.S.
- India applied for membership in October 2015, request was not considered

NPT (Nonproliferation Treaty):

- NPT (Nonproliferation Treaty) is an international treaty, which came into force in 1970. The main objective was to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology.
- India, Pakistan and Israel have also not signed NPT.
- India refused to sign NPT because
 - (1) The NPT defines “nuclear weapons states” as those that tested devices before 1967, which means India cannot ever be one.
 - (2) No fixed timelines have been mentioned for disarmament.
 - (3) NPT is unfair treaty as nuclear weapon states have no obligation to give them up while non-nuclear states are not allowed to have them.

Source: Indian Express

3. Remote voting for migrant voters

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Election Commission of India (EC) has said it will start exploring possibilities of remote voting on a pilot basis.

More on the Topic:

- Voters migrate from the place of their registration to cities and other places for education, employment and other purposes.
- **India accounts for over 400 million internal migrants**, with an estimated 120 million circular migrant workers.
- It becomes difficult for them to return to their registered polling stations to cast their vote.
- A committee will be set up to examine the issues of migrant voters.
- The EC has been working with IIT-Madras on using **Blockchain technology for remote voting**. A technical advisory committee has also been formed.



Election Commission of India:

- The Election commission of India is a **permanent, autonomous, quasi-judicial and constitutional body created under Article 324 in part 15 of the constitution**.
- It is the supreme body vested with powers of supervision, control and direction over all aspects of electoral governance in the country.

- The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, State Legislative Councils and the offices of the President and Vice President of the country.

Source: Hindu

4. AIM-iLEAP programme

Topic: Government Programmes

In News: NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has successfully concluded the 5th edition of AIM-iLEAP programme on 'Innovations in Audio-Tech'.

More on the Topic:

- The programme is an effort towards using technology to solve the audio industry's most pressing problems and boost the Indian culture.
- AIM iLEAP (Innovative Leadership for Entrepreneurial Agility and Profitability) is a series of Enterprise and Investor Demo Days.
- AIM iLEAP was launched to support #startupsuccess by overcoming two major bottlenecks they face - market and investor access.

Atal Innovation Mission:

- **NITI Aayog's flagship program** - Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has been at the forefront of promoting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The program aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance.

Source: Indian Express



5. Chief of Defence Staff

Topic: Governance

In News: The government has amended service rules of the armed forces, making all serving and recently retired three-star officers — Lt General, Air Marshal and Vice Admiral — under the age of 62 eligible for the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

More on the Topic:

- According to the new rules, all three-star and four-star officers from the three services, including those who retired in the last two years, will be eligible for consideration. The government, however, has put an age limit of 62 years.
- The mandate of the CDS include:
- **Principal Military Advisor to the Defence Minister** on all tri-services (Army, Navy and Indian Air Force) matters.
- **The permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee** which will also have three service chiefs as members.
- **Advisory role in the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).**
- Creating jointness among the armed forces
- Creation of integrated theatre commands
- Prioritising capital acquisition for the modernisation of the forces.
- The CDS is also appointed as **Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs.**
- CDS is considered as one of the most significant reforms in the top echelons of the military.



Source: Business Standard

6. Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: German Development Cooperation provides an additional €12.5 million in funding for IUCN's Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme.



More on the Topic:

- Divided into different phases, the ITHCP contributes to the Global Tiger Recovery Programme endorsed in St Petersburg in 2010, which aims to double tiger numbers in the wild by 2022.
- The programme's brand-new Phase Four will fund projects that aim to protect tigers but also other Pantherine species, in particular leopards and clouded leopards, a first for the Tiger Programme.

About International Union for Conservation for Nature (IUCN)

- IUCN is an **international organization (Non-Governmental in nature)** working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- It is involved in data gathering and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy, lobbying and education.
- The organization is best known for compiling and publishing the **IUCN Red List**, which assesses the conservation status of species worldwide.
- Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

Source: Hindu
